



BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

Vol. 2, No. 32

March 18, 2000

"I have not yet begun to fight!"



QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVEMENTS ONGOING

By Vice Adm. N. R. Ryan Jr.

This NAVADMIN is part of our ongoing efforts to spread the word on Navy Quality of Life (QOL) initiatives and projects that support our Sailors and families. Positive feedback suggests that we continue to spread the word on what Navy leadership is doing to help Sailors meet their QOL needs.

This month's list of innovative QOL ideas, programs, and interesting facts is contained below. Have you checked your rating roadmap lately? Under the new Navy College Program, rating roadmap highlights recommended college credit that can be earned within individual ratings through Navy training, qualifica-

tions, and work experience.

When was the last time you went to the mall, the Lifelines Quality of Life Mall that is? QOL Mall provides information and editorial articles through an on-line worldwide web environment that delivers everything from community support to on-line training to basketball safety. Since our last update, the following Internet sites and hotlinks have been added: Homeport change kit, overseasmanship manual, immigration, and the naturalization and marriage to foreign nations program. Future programs will include the sponsor program and a special training

See **QUALITY OF LIFE** Page 3

SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER CAREER PAY

From the Office of Chief of Naval Operations

The SWOCP bonus is an incentive aimed at enhancing junior officer retention among surface warfare officers. The bonus will pay a surface warfare officer up to \$50,000 to stay in the community to complete their full department head tour.

"I see SWOCP as only one part of a real commitment to improve the Surface Navy as a whole," said Cmdr. Kenneth Rome, Executive Officer, Surface Warfare Officers School Command.

"The Surface Warfare Career Incentive Pay sends a clear signal

about the surface warfare community's strong commitment to our junior officers," said Rome. "This incentive pay is one of several initiatives to preserve our community's long-term health by nurturing our most precious asset, our people. It isn't so much about the money as it is about our young officers realizing that the surface warfare leadership views them as pivotal to effecting the cultural changes required to sustain the preeminence of surface warfare in the 21st century."

STOCK MARKET

BIG GAIN FOR DOW JONES, S & P *By New York Times*

In a reversal of fortune, blue-chip stocks recorded their biggest gain in 17 months, while the technology-dominated Nasdaq market slumped. The Nasdaq stocks that have been so beloved by investors as the engines of the new economy have in three days lost a stunning 9.2 percent, just short of what Wall Street considers a correction. Investors piled instead into financial, drug and other high-quality stocks that have been old economy laggards. They drove the Dow Jones industrial average up 320.17 points, or 3.3 percent, to 10,131.41, paring its loss so far this year to 11.9 percent. The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index climbed 33 points, or 2.4 percent, to 1,392.14, narrowing its loss for the year to 5.25 percent. Some of the money, stock analysts said, came from sales of Nasdaq stocks. The Nasdaq index skidded 124.01 points to 4,582.62, just three days after hitting a record 5,048.62.

CAMPAIGN 2000

BUSH SEEKS TO RAISE MILLIONS *By New York Times*

With his \$70 million campaign treasury spent, Gov. George W. Bush has started trying to raise a fast \$10 million to finance a pre-convention campaign against Vice President Al Gore. At the same time, the Republican National Committee was accelerating pleas to big-dollar donors to produce as much as \$100 million before the Republican convention in July.

MR. GORE MAKES APPEAL TO GROUP *By New York Times*

In his first day as his party's presumptive presidential nominee, Vice President Al Gore warned organized labor Wednesday that the Republicans were going to "throw everything they've got, plus the kitchen sink" at his candidacy, and that the Democrats had to fight back.

SATURDAY'S SITE TV SCHEDULE

CHANNEL 2

1030 SABRINA

1100 SISTER ACT

1630 HUSH

1ST 1800 WWF SUPERSTARS

2ND 1800 SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

1930 THE MESSENGER

2200 COPLAND

CHANNEL 6

1030 KING OF THE HILL

1100 BLADE

1630 MULAN

1800 GOTTI

1900 DIRTY WORK

2020 THE THOMAS CROWN AFFAIR

2220 THE OTHER SISTER

TV SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
DUE TO OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS

BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

Capt. Douglas W. Keith, Commanding Officer

Lt. Cmdr. Laurie Rye, Public Affairs Officer

JOC (SW/AW) Stephen K. Robinson, Asst. Public Affairs Officer

J01 (SW) Robert W. Gannard, Editor

J03 Laura C. Wiggins, Staff Writer

L11 Jimmie Claspell, Print Shop

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services stationed at sea and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Navy and do not imply endorsement thereof.

N A T I O N A L / I N T E R N A T I O N A L N E W S

QUALITY OF LIFE from Page 1
program on intercultural relations to better support Sailors and families relocating OCONUS.

A new law expanded the Montgomery G. I. Bill (MGIB) Benefits. Officers who lost MGIB program benefits upon commissioning because their prior enlisted service was insufficient to establish eligibility may now be eligible for MGIB program benefits. Benefits may be restored if you had no break in service to use for graduate or doctorate work. Even more MGIB good news ... MGIB program benefits are now payable for preparatory courses for college and graduate school entrance exams (LSAT, GMAT, GRE, ETC.).

Help us spread the word. There are probably many great local QOL support initiatives ongoing that we never hear about. Commands are encouraged to share examples of innovative QOL efforts so we can spread the word in the future.

GUN CONTROL ON THE MOVE AGAIN *By Associated Press*

President Clinton is pleased that there may be some movement on gun control legislation in Congress. Speaking at a Democratic fund-raiser in Baltimore Wednesday night, Mr. Clinton said the Republican leadership "at last" had heeded his call to work toward agreement on what he described as "common-sense gun legislation." Earlier Wednesday, the House voted to urge congressional negotiators to meet within two weeks

to try to reconcile bills dealing with background checks at gun shows.

Also in Baltimore, the White House released a letter in which President Clinton endorsed a bill in the Maryland legislature requiring trigger locks and other safety features on guns sold in Maryland. Mr. Clinton says the measure would "make guns safer, and keep them out of the hands of children and felons."

MEDICAL RESEARCH SAVES MONEY *By Associated Press*

A team of medical researchers says hospitals can safely move toward releasing heart attack patients without complications after just three days, instead of the usual five or six. Their cost-benefit analysis is detailed in The New England Journal of Medicine.

It sharpens an already touchy medical debate. Shorter stays for heart attacks could raise a public outcry like the one that produced a 1998 federal law mandating at least two days of insurance coverage for maternity stays. Critics fear insurers will seize on such cost-benefit studies to rush patients out of the hospital.

Reviewing the records of more than 22,000 patients, researchers calculated that very few, perhaps only about a dozen, benefited from a fourth day in the hospital. The average cost for the extra day is \$624. With more than one million heart attacks annually, the cost savings would be significant.

CNO ADDRESSES COMMITTEE ON SERVICES

By SASC recorder

On March 1, 2000, the Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Jay L. Johnson addressed the Senate Armed Services Committee. Following are excerpts from that brief.

Today's Navy is the most capable in the world and continues to demonstrate that ready, forward deployed expeditionary forces are vital in meeting America's security requirements around the globe. Today over 48,000 Sailors and Marines are deployed afloat. USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER and USS JOHN C. STENNIS Carrier Battle Groups, USS WASP and USS BONHOMME RICHARD Amphibious Ready Groups, are currently deployed to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf, ready to influence, directly and decisively, events ashore from the sea.

The Navy has successfully responded to the increasing number of world wide contingency operations, (average increased from 5.4 contingency operations per year during 1988-91 to 12.25 per year during 1996-99) ranging from the ongoing mission of Operation Southern Watch patrolling the no-fly zones over Iraq to Operation Allied Force in the Balkans. Today's Navy continues to demonstrate its versatility and capability in support of the nation's military strategy.

The most critical ingredient for the continued success of the Navy remains our people. They have served with distinction during a difficult period which included a prolonged draw-down of forces even as operational requirements increased. Our readiness posture is wholly dependent on attracting and retaining high quality, motivated, and trained Sailors, even as the Nation's strong

economy continues to pose significant challenges in recruiting and retention.

The Navy met its FY99 recruiting goal and as a result, our at-sea manning is improving. The number of gapped at-sea billets has been reduced from a high of over 18,000 in 1998 to approximately 9,200 today.

Nonetheless, the propensity to join the military has stabilized at a historically low level. Unemployment is at record low levels, the youth population remains stable, and college attendance is increasing. All the services, facing the same extraordinary recruitment challenges, are forced to compete with each other for the same candidate pool.

Retention continues to be problematic. Although we are beginning to see some signs of improvement, retention rates in all categories remain below our steady-state targets. In particular, retention of enlisted members and unrestricted line officers is below what is needed and remains a significant concern. Although Navy met end strength requirements, FY99 ended with the lowest enlisted retention in twenty years.

The FY 2000 Budget has provided a 4.8% raise to base pay, restoration of the 50% retirement option, pay table reform, and special pays and bonuses, all of which are having a positive impact. These first steps will be key toward addressing our recruiting and retention problems. The Senate also authorized a thrift savings plan for

CNO ADDRESS Page 4

our military members, with implementation contingent upon offsets in the mandatory spending side of the budget to compensate for the lost tax revenues that would result. This offset issue has yet to be resolved. We believe it would be helpful if the Senate would review this issue during consideration of the FY01 budget. We are learning from our Sailors that this is a significant compensation issue; implementation will do much to bolster the progress we have recently made in this area.

We are appreciative of the initiative by the Senate last year to accelerate the implementation of market-based BAH, and that initiative is fully funded in our FY01 budget. We are also encouraged by Secretary Cohen's initiative to reduce out-of-pocket housing costs from 18.8% to 15% in FY01, and to 0% by FY05. This is also fully funded in our program.

Health care remains an integral part of our overall readiness. Although TRICARE has been fully implemented, we have to do more before we truly deliver on our commitment to provide quality, accessible health services to the entire beneficiary population, including retirees. We are particularly concerned about our retired Sailors and their families. The Nation needs to keep faith with those over 65 who believe we have broken the promise of lifetime care in return for their sacrifices. How we respond to this issue sends a powerful message to today's Sailors and those considering military service.

Finally, we are looking at requesting authorization to begin paying BAH to single E-4s stationed aboard ship, and to enhance Career

Sea Pay which has suffered significant erosion since first authorized in 1982. These authorizations would provide us with much-needed flexibility to boost retention if it remains below goals next year.

The readiness of our deployed forces continues to be high as validated by the performance of our forces in Operations allied force and southern watch. However, the allocation of resources to meet the requirements of deployed forces creates difficulties for non-deployed units, which subsequently must overcome a larger readiness hurdle as they begin to prepare for deployment. My principal concerns remain with the readiness of our non-deployed forces in the Inter Deployment Training Cycle.

The Navy faces a number of challenges in keeping its equipment ready for the next mission. Aging systems, spare parts shortages ashore, and high OPTEMPO are placing increased pressure on the material readiness of our platforms. The average age of our platforms has increased substantially since the mid 1980s, and will continue to increase throughout the FYDP. The Navy has taken aggressive action to address material readiness concerns. The funding that you provided over the last two years has assisted in restocking our diminished aircraft and ship-board spares and depot level repairables. In addition, the Kosovo emergency supplemental funding helped replenish the depleted stocks expended during Kosovo operations. As you know, however, it takes nearly two years for the investments made in parts and stocks to reach the deckplates and flight lines. We are

CNO ADDRESS Page 5

just beginning to see some relief from our FY99 investments.

Funding of our key readiness areas in FY00 is generally sufficient, although there remain several areas of immediate concern. The across-the-board reductions in our Operations and Maintenance (OM&N) appropriations were targeted to Real Property Maintenance to protect the critical flying hour and maintenance accounts. This \$120 million reduction is serious and needs to be replenished. Our FY00 budget had funded Real Property Maintenance just below the 2% Asset Protection Index goal - a minimum level, given that industry standards are between 2% and 4%. The rescission has put us further below this goal and will make it that much more difficult to turn the corner on the chronic deterioration of our bases. This is becoming a significant quality of life issue. Similarly, the Fleet Commanders are telling us that they believe the ship depot maintenance account is also under-funded this year. While we have budgeted ship depot maintenance at our goal of 93.5% of notional requirements, the Fleet Commanders would like to see this higher given their appropriate focus on near and mid-term readiness. Should additional resources become available in FY00, they should be applied first to these and other readiness areas. These items are also reflected in the Navy's FY01 un-funded prioritization list.

Increasing our investment to support the re-capitalization and modernization of our Navy is essential to maintaining operational primacy. Adequate readiness can only be sustained in the future with a modernization and re-capitalization program that delivers sufficient num-

bers of technologically superior platforms and systems to the Fleet. I remain concerned that we are falling behind in this effort.

We are continually pursuing initiatives that will lower our cost of doing business so we can maintain near-term readiness and still invest more in the future. However, our ability to realize efficiencies is not keeping pace with requirements. As a result, we were forced to compensate by shifting resources from modernization and re-capitalization appropriation to operations and support areas.

Modernization enables our current forces to continue to be valuable war-fighting assets in the years ahead while concurrently trying to mitigate escalating support costs of aging equipment. Also, as technological cycle times are now shorter than platform service life, it is fiscally prudent to modernize the force through timely upgrades. Re-capitalization is critical for three basic reasons: First, the risks to our future military pre-eminence require a prudent investment in new capabilities. Second, the aging of many of our ships, aircraft, and vehicles, coupled with the added wear and tear associated with use, mandates their systematic replacement. Third, the industrial base that supports our armed forces is still largely unique and, absent new programs, would likely not remain economically viable.

We need to invest now with a focused and expanded program to maintain naval superiority well through the first half of the 21st Century. With the help of the Administration

CNO ADDRESS Page 6

and the Senate, our shipbuilding and aircraft procurement programs have improved since last year. However, they are still insufficient to sustain the force needed for the 21st century.

Our FY01 Budget sustains our ship building plan of 8 ships, and 7.8 ships per year through 2005. This is approximately 1 ship per year less than the 8.6 ships per year steady-state requirement. Likewise, our aircraft procurement is 128 aircraft in FY01, less than the 140 projected last year, and significantly below the 150-210 per year requirement. Those shortfalls can all be attributed to affordability, and are reflective of the priority placed on our readiness and personnel accounts.

We have recently witnessed the significant war-fighting benefits of Information Technology for the 21st Century (IT-21) being installed in our Carrier Battle Groups and Amphibious Ready Groups. The enhanced capabilities in operational and collaborative networking in a secure environment are compelling.

In order to achieve full Navy implementation of this technology, our shore establishment must similarly be connected to the Fleet. The Secretary of the Navy and I have directed the establishment of a Navy-Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) to provide enterprise-wide, end-to-end information network capability. The NMCI will provide improved access, interoperability, and significantly enhanced security in voice, video and data service to all naval activities, enabling process improvements in warfare and warfare support. The Navy of the future depends on this technology for critical war-fighting capabilities.

NMCI and IT-21 together form the backbone of how we will conduct warfare.

The past few years unquestionably demonstrate that the Navy plays a pivotal role in the protection of U.S. interests worldwide. Our assessment of the emerging threat indicates that the nation's reliance on a maritime force will not diminish as we enter into the new millennium. Our operational primacy depends on the unwavering commitment of our Sailors. The recent pay raises and Quality of Life initiatives demonstrate a similar commitment from us, and are a step in the right direction. While your Sailors spend their days and nights securing our national interests, we must continue to work together to secure the quality of life they deserve.

My greatest concern remains that we continue to maintain near term readiness at the expense of the future. We must increase our efforts to modernize and re-capitalize the fleet. As I have previously stated, this will require additional resources and we will need your help.

A BIRTHDAY ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Yeoman First Class Anne O'Brian celebrates her birthday with her friends in Executive Department. (Photo by JO1 (SW) Robert W. Garnand).

SPORTS

DALLAS WINS OVER NEW JERSEY

By Associated Press

Dallas won the battle at the meadowlands last night 3 to 2. Once the Stars got their third goal off the stick of Mike Modano, the Devils might have known it was over. When scoring three or more goals on the road Dallas has won 32 straight games. Jamie Langenbrunner and Richard Matvichuk also scored for the Stars. Patrick Elias lit the lamp for New Jersey, becoming the first Devil since the 1993-94 season to reach 30 goals in a season.

NHL SCORES

Washington 4	NY Islanders 3
Chicago 5	Toronto 2
Edmonton 2	Carolina 2
Tampa Bay 4	NY Rangers 4
Ottawa 3	Calgary 1
St. Louis 5	Phoenix 3
San Jose 6	Buffalo 5
LA Kings 2	Anaheim 2

BASEBALL SCORES

St. Louis 7	Florida 3
Boston 8	Cincinnati 1
Montreal 3	Minnesota 0
NY Mets (Ss) 6	Cleveland 3
Kansas City 7	Atlanta 2
Pittsburgh 15	Tampa Bay 5
Toronto 8	Houston 3
Detroit 8	NY Yankees 2
Texas 2	Baltimore 1
Los Angeles 6	NY Mets (Ss) 6
San Francisco 8	Chi. White Sox 7
Chi. Cubs 10	Milwaukee 4
Anaheim 15	Arizona 9
Colorado 7	Seattle 5

NFL MOURN FORMER BRONCO PLAYER, FORMER NINERS COACH

By Associated Press

The NFL mourns the loss of two. Former Denver Broncos defensive tackle Paul Smith died Tuesday night at the age of 54. Broadcast reports say he had been battling pancreatic cancer. Smith played eleven of his 13 seasons with the Broncos and was a member of Denver's first Super Bowl team. He made the Pro Bowl twice.

San Francisco 49ers offensive line coach Bobb McKittrick lost his battle with cancer Wednesday. He was 64. It was McKittrick who helped build the line that led the Niners to five Super Bowls. He was diagnosed with bile duct cancer in January of last year and continued to work with the team despite undergoing surgery and chemotherapy.

NCAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT KICKS OFF WITH SIXTEEN GAMES

By Associated Press

Yesterday was the day college basketball junkies dream of. The NCAA tournament tipped off with 16 games involving 32 teams. They all have the same goal, the final four in two weeks in Indianapolis.

NBA SCORES

Boston 121	Golden State 104
Indiana 113	Atlanta 107
Charlotte 77	Chicago 74
Detroit 113	Orlando 91
Sacramento 98	LA Clippers 78